

Grant program to include rural roads that serve to transport agriculture products from farms or ranches to the marketplace.

American agricultural communities play a pivotal role in the economy within my district and across America. These farms and ranches provide the communities they serve with fresh products daily, ensuring consumers have an adequate and healthy food supply. Unfortunately, many of the roads are deteriorating.

Over 70 percent of our nation's total road mileage is in rural areas, yet, between 2009–2015, these roads have only seen about 37 percent of federal highway fund. As Congress debates how to move forward with a bold plan to address infrastructure, we need to ensure road-repair projects like these do not fall by the wayside as we seek to address other larger infrastructure projects. Just because a road is in a rural area does not mean the road is small or otherwise unimportant. To the contrary, I am aware of several rural road projects in my district and the surrounding region that are major connectors that would benefit from this type of funding opportunity.

Madam Speaker, my bill expands the current surface block grant program to include these roads—roads that serve as a lifeline to the people that depend on them. We must invest in our rural infrastructure now, before it is in complete disrepair. This legislation was included in H.R. 2, the Moving Forward Act, when it passed in the House of Representatives in the 116th Congress, and I look forward to working with my colleagues to ensure it passes again. I urge my colleagues to support this measure.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2021*

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I have been diagnosed with covid-19. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 10 and NAY on Roll Call No. 11.

#### IN HONOR OF NORMAN YEE

### HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2021*

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the President of the San Francisco of Supervisors Norman Yee who is departing the Board of Supervisors after eight years, and after serving a prior eight years as a commissioner on the San Francisco Board of Education.

Norman is a native San Franciscan and was raised in Chinatown. From an early age, he worked at a Noe Valley grocery store owned by his parents. He graduated from Galileo Academy of Science and Technology, then attended City College, and finally matriculated to the University of California at Berkeley, graduating with a BS in Civil Engineering. He also holds a MA in Education from San Francisco State University.

Norman Yee is an activist and leader. He taught ESL and citizenship classes at City

College from 1984 to 1994, and for 18 years was the executive director for Wu Yee Children's Service, an advocacy group supporting child services in San Francisco. He was elected as a commissioner of the school district in 2004 and served as its president during his second term.

In 2012, he was elected to serve on the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. In this role, he sponsored or cosponsored 780 pieces of legislation, many of citywide significance that also went to the ballot. For example, in 2016 he cosponsored Proposition W which made City College free for all city residents. In 2018, he cosponsored Proposition C to fund universal childcare. Both measures passed because San Franciscans deeply appreciate education. For his district, he secured more funding for parks, negotiated with neighbors to allow local businesses to expand, opposed short-term illegal rentals by AirBnB, pushed for lower speed limits on dangerous streets, and led efforts to boost funding for senior programs.

He spearheaded creation of the city's Early Head Start program, the Asian Parent Education Network, the San Francisco Child Care Providers Association, and the Chinatown Beacon Center. He remains a board member of the San Francisco Child Care Providers Association.

Last year, Norman Yee was elected president of the San Francisco Board of Supervisors. He is fair in setting agendas and works collaboratively with colleagues. He is also a leader. An example is the new housing being developed in his district at the Balboa reservoir.

Rents in San Francisco have declined during the pandemic, but the long-term trend is sharply upward. The reservoir site is adjacent to the main campus of City College, a treasure within my district that I proudly support. Proposals for housing stretch back to the 1960's. A year before he was tragically taken from us, I personally spoke to Mayor Ed Lee about placing housing at this site. However, it's hard to build when the public is divided.

Supervisor Yee rolled up his sleeves to create a proposal acceptable to most and of enduring service to low income residents of San Francisco. Over time, many thousands will be served. 1,100 units of housing will be built, 50 percent affordable, and 150 units will be dedicated to City College faculty and staff.

As our nation struggles to come to grips with systemic racism and abuses by some on police forces, Supervisor Yee recently placed onto the ballot a measure to change the way in which San Francisco staffs its police force. An existing city charter provision required San Francisco to have 1,971 full-time duty officers on the force. In November, San Francisco voters abolished this provision. This will allow the board, the police and community to talk about how the department will be staffed. 71 percent of the city's voters agreed with Norman Yee that this change is needed to move the community forward.

Supervisor Yee is a gentleman and a thoughtful public servant. I've known some elected officials who light up a room by destructively setting off verbal fireworks in a tightly crowded auditorium. Norman simply tells it like it is. This reassures his constituents that he's not present at the meeting for adulation from the crowd but for the hard work that produces progress.

Madam Speaker, as Supervisor Yee exits public service, he will be remembered as the man everyone could have over for dinner because he's so earnest and so interesting. Now that he's leaving, his wife Cathy and their two children Karissa and Chandra may see him for a few more dinners. We thank them for their service, as well, because they also sacrificed for the community's best interests during his time in elective office. We will see Norman on the streets of Westwood, his neighborhood, and perhaps in city hall from time to time. We will also remember him as the man who understood every corner of his beloved San Francisco because he earned the friendship of people throughout this great city.

#### HONORING MARIO LIZCANO

### HON. VICENTE GONZALEZ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Monday, January 11, 2021*

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. Mario Lizcano of Edinburg, Texas for his incredible commitment to serve the Rio Grande Valley.

Mario is a community leader who grew up in Pharr, Texas. He went to high school at PSJA High and attended college at the University of Texas San Antonio.

Mr. Lizcano is now the Administrator of Corporate Affairs at DHR Health, a physician-owned health system that offers some of the most comprehensive medical care on the U.S. Southern Border. Mario has been with DHR Health for nearly 14 years and has contributed significantly to the promotion of health and COVID-19 awareness in the Rio Grande Valley.

Mario was named Man of the Year for 2020 by the Edinburg Chamber of Commerce for his magnificent record of public service. He was not only recognized for his work with DHR Health, but for his countless other selfless acts that benefit the community. Mario served as the 2020 Edinburg Census Committee Chairman and helped ensure South Texas had the most accurate count possible. He is also the Chairman of the Board for the Greater Pharr Chamber of Commerce and the Vice President of the Pharr Economic Development Corporation.

In addition to his various leadership roles within the community, Mr. Lizcano is a 20-year volunteer firefighter veteran, achieving the rank of Firefighter of the year, twice, by the city of Mission, as well as the Firefighter of the Year for the entire Rio Grande Valley. Once, he even ran a 5k in full firefighter uniform to raise money for charity.

Mario has contributed and volunteered for more than 500 regional and statewide events and has accumulated innumerable awards. The sheer amount of leadership positions and awards Mr. Lizcano has achieved is too many to recognize today in my allotted time.

Therefore, Madam Speaker, I stand here today to acknowledge the countless achievements of Mario Lizcano. He has dedicated his life to the betterment of his community and his legacy will no doubt inspire public service and volunteerism of future generations. I thank Mr. Lizcano and congratulate him.